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6 June 1983 MJN 8312

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group

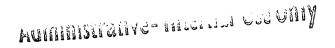
SUBJECT: Monthly Report--Jordan Bureau--May 1983

I. GENERAL

Conclusion of the long-awaited agreement between Lebanon and Israel generated voluminous reaction during May, and by the end of the month seemed to be the cause of greater regional tension rather than less. Immediately following the successful negotiation of the agreement, Secretary of State Shultz paid an overnight visit to Amman on 7-8 May to brief King Husayn on it. The secretary won assurance of Jordanian support during his brief visit, but the agreement was immediately denounced by the Syrians. Throughout the month Syrian officials and media issued a steady stream of statements and propaganda hostile to the agreement and its supporters, and Syrian envoys fanned out across the Arab world to round up support for their position. By the end of the month, tensions were rising as it seemed less and less likely that the Syrians would withdraw their forces from Lebanon, the condition set by the Israelis for implementation of their part of the agreement. Syrian military maneuvers and an attempt by the Syrian Air Force to intercept Israeli reconnaissance planes over Lebanon contributed to the uneasy feeling.

In an apparently related development, the month also saw the beginning of a mutiny within the main faction of the PLO, Yasir 'Arafat's own Fatah movement, when several officers stationed in Lebanon's Biqa Valley rebelled against what they saw as 'Arafat's too moderate policies. The mutiny was continuing and apparently growing more serious at the end of the month.

In Amman, reaction to the month's events, specifically to the Lebanon-Israel agreement, took a sudden turn to violence one night when two bombs exploded at "soft" American targets, the offices of the American-Arab Insurance Company and those of the American Friends of the Middle East. Although there were no injuries and damage was moderate, no one could help but see the parallel with the more tragic Beirut Embassy bombing.



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II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

- 1. Pursuant to discussions at the Bureau Chiefs Conference, Jordan Bureau assumed coverage of the Lebanese factional radio of Major Sa'd Haddad, Voice of Hope in English and Arabic, on 9 May.
- 2. Following a 26 May AFP report that Turkish armed forces had crossed the border into Iraq, the Bureau began an open watch on Baghdad media and, the next day, began checking the twice daily Arabic broadcasts from Ankara. On the evening of the 27th, Baghdad radio and INA reported a statement issued by the Iraqi Foreign Ministry indicating that Iraq had had advance knowledge and had given its approval of the Turkish operation, which was said to be against "outlawed armed groups" who had been attacking people in the border region, including some Turkish soldiers.

B. Lateral Services

- 1. At the request of the Embassy Political Section, the Bureau provided a special file of FBIS material on the Middle East to Secretary Shultz' party during his 7-8 May overnight visit to Amman.
- 2. A Voice of Lebanon report filed by Nicosia Bureau that Soviet Embassy personnel were leaving Beirut and that those in Amman and Damascus might soon follow, was called immediately to the attention of the Embassy by duty editor On the basis of the report, high ranking Embassy of the rest wasted no time in contacting the Soviet Embassy in Amman to seek clarification.

STAT

C. Technical

Modification of the Bureau's Extel ROs to enable to editors to monitor "pinkie coding" performance was completed in May. The modified machines print a # symbol to represent the "blank" capitalization code.

III. ADMINISTRATION

Personnel

1. Teletype operators received PSIs on 1 May.

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2. veteran translator for the Embassy Political	STAT
Section, entered on duty on 1 May as Jordan Bureau's newest trainee monitor. brings the monitoring team back to full strength.	STAT
3. The Bureau is continuing efforts to recruit another monitor to replace senior monitor who transfers to Cyprus in July. The resume and test results of a promising candidate interviewed by Tel Aviv Bureau Chief were received during the month, and Tel Aviv has been asked to arrange for more extensive testing. However, new restrictions on emigration from the West Bank, recently imposed by the Government of Jordan, cast some doubt on whether or not the Bureau will be able to hire this candidate, regardless of the results of the additional test.	STAT STAT
IV. VISITS	
11-14 May, for phase II of the INTERNET study.	STAT STAT STAT
From the Bureau Deputy Chief to London Bureau, 26 May, for familiarization and consultations in conjunction with private travel.	STAT
Chief, Jordan Burea	STAT

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